

REQUEST FOR OFFER | **STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS**

The City and its partners should work together to ensure everyone who lives, works, and does business with the City of Chattanooga has a positive experience. Strong Neighborhoods have optimal level of ownership, engaged neighbors, and strong community organizations that embrace a diverse group of people and lifestyles.

Neighborhood Leadership

The City should provide opportunities for leadership training, resources and development to individuals in Chattanooga's neighborhoods. Strong neighborhoods have leaders who can develop and execute community action plans by building or bolstering their neighborhood associations. Healthy neighborhoods have equally healthy neighborhood associations with members representing the unique diversity of the respective neighborhoods. The City should work to empower neighborhood leaders to advocate for their community and work to solve difficult problems.

Connected Communities

Strong neighborhoods are connected to economic opportunity, retail centers, and other communities. The City must work to ensure residents of Chattanooga have access to a multitude of transit options including driving, walking, biking, and mass transit. Research shows that neighborhood connectivity can have a large effect on the health of the residents living in the neighborhood. Whether its providing easy access to fresh healthy food at a grocery store, or connecting a neighborhood to walking or cycling options – the City should support neighborhoods by working to connect them to financial and retail services, economic opportunity, and green spaces.

Healthy Residential Markets

The City must work to ensure that every neighborhood has diverse and healthy real estate market that encourages investment. There is no one approach to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities faced by each individual neighborhood. To ensure Chattanooga is a welcoming community, neighborhoods should be diverse in every way and appeal to people of different ages, races, and incomes. In addition, the City should develop targeted strategies to attack affordability issues. These strategies should address both income and median home price and be specific to the conditions of the neighborhood. In addition, the city should work to reduce the number of blighted and abandoned properties in both the short and long term.

Rapid Rehousing

The City is currently executes a number of federal grants to provide services to individuals in the community experiencing homelessness. Housing insecurity has a large fiscal, economic and social impact on any City. Historically, efforts to help homeless individuals have been targeted at preventing individuals from becoming homeless. Recent research indicates that greater success can be achieved by working to move individuals from emergency shelter or transitional housing into permanent housing much more quickly. Communities are successfully, and quickly, re-housing families at a minimal cost by providing assistance locating new housing, short-term rental assistance, and follow-up case management focused on employment. Once permanent housing has been located then more intense services are provided as necessary.

Desired Outcomes:

- Increase housing affordability
- More connected neighborhoods through increase in transit ridership
- Increase the feet of sidewalks
- Increase the feet of bike lanes
- Reduce the number of blighted properties in the City

Overall budget proposals are encouraged to include:

- Clear & measurable goals
- Multi-agency and/or multi-department collaboration
- Mechanisms for citizen involvement & feedback
- Sustainable practices
- Research/Evidence based best practices

Budget Strategies:

- Increase access to multiple forms of transportations by investing in sidewalks and bike paths
- Through measurable outreach initiatives, increase transit ridership
- Promote homeownership
- Ensure access to green space
- Turn blighted properties into neighborhood assets
- Increase neighborhood leadership and civic engagement
- Streamline permitting processes
- Increase the number of affordable units in neighborhoods where the median home price greatly exceeds 30% of the median income